

S-E-C-R-E-T

31 October 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR: Bureau Chiefs

SUBJECT: Letter of Information

GENERAL

1. African Bureau Situation: During October the African Bureau continued to operate despite the curfew and the absence of one-third of its African staff. Communications improved, but a prolonged outage of the landline between the Embassy and NECOM in Lagos required handcarrying of tapes and caused some traffic delays. The morale of the American staff remained high despite restricted living and social conditions, the ever-present threat of further violence, and the increasing burden of keeping the bureau functioning without a full African complement.

Following the mass slayings of Ibos throughout the North, and particularly in Kano, the weekend of 1-2 October, the regional and federal governments organized air and rail evacuation of Easterners to their home region, and the Eastern Region Government did the same for northern Hausas living in the East.

Headquarters, after consultations with the State Department, asked the U.S. Embassy in Accra if it would agree to support an FBIS fallback operation in Accra if Kaduna becomes untenable. A reply is awaited. (SECRET)

2. Saigon Situation: Viet Cong terrorist activity after the elections was limited to a few minor incidents in the Saigon area. A routine curfew from 2300 to 0400 was in effect at the end of September. (CONFIDENTIAL)

3. Mediterranean Bureau Developments: In general, Cyprus remained calm and the rotation of the Turkish military contingent went off smoothly.

The Director of the GOC Public Information Office, Miltiades Christodoulou, visited the bureau in mid-September and was briefed on its operations. After the briefing, Mr. Christodoulou appeared to be satisfied that the bureau was impartial in its selection, and seemed to understand the reasons for filing anti-Greek material. (CONFIDENTIAL)

Group 1

Excluded from automatic down-  
grading and declassification

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4. Caribbean Bureau: Because of flooding in three areas, the Caribbean Bureau's evening shift was unable to reach the operations site on 13 October. The bureau resumed normal operations the next morning. East Coast Bureau provided backstop coverage of Brazilian broadcasts while the Caribbean Bureau was closed. At present there is little prospect that the construction contract, which is now about 13 percent complete, will be met in the allotted 365 days. However, construction is at a point where more rapid progress is anticipated. Negotiations for 275 acres of land needed to complete the bureau site continue. (CONFIDENTIAL)

5. Bloc Reaction to CPR: In response to active consumer interest in fullest possible details of communist bloc reactions to events in Communist China and any indications in bloc propaganda of how far individual countries are willing to go in formalizing the break with the Chinese, the Austrian Bureau is providing weekly logs of European communist press treatment of Chinese events and--with the German Bureau--maintaining a close watch on the press for relevant comment to supplement radio coverage. Austrian Bureau FYI's on Albanian treatment of the Chinese "cultural revolution" enabled RPD to document for interested consumers the cautious reaction from Tirana, caught between a need to reaffirm its alliance with Peking and apparent misgivings over the excesses in the CPR. (CONFIDENTIAL)

6. Research and Analysis Services: Queries addressed to RPD from State Department and Agency offices continued to focus on Vietnam, the Chinese "cultural revolution," and Sino-Soviet relations. In addition, Agency researchers drew on the War Themes files in preparing a briefing for NASA Administrator Webb, and examined the file of Latin American communist leaders' speeches for their views on the nuclear test ban treaty. Other requesters included the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, which was assisted in locating and identifying a Mikoyan statement in August 1957 on Arctic inspection. (CONFIDENTIAL)

7. Supplements and Reports: A special reaction report on President Johnson's 7 October speech to the National Conference of Editorial Writers was prepared at the request of the White House and distributed to recipients of the Wire Service and the FBIS Bulletin. The text of North Korean party leader Kim Il-song's 5 October report to a Korean Workers Party conference was published as a Far East Daily Report Supplement on 12 October. First Vice Premier Kim Il's 10 October report to the conference was published on 17 October. Excerpts from the politburo report to the 13th SED Central Committee Plenum by SED Central Committee Secretary Guenter Mittag, translated from the East German press, were issued as a Daily Report supplement on 23 September. (FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

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8. Lin Piao Article: The Lin Piao article "Long Live the Victory of People's War," originally published in the Daily Report in September 1965, was recently republished by the Government Printing Office for public sale. The first printing totaled 5,000 copies. Copies will be sent to bureaus likely to find them useful for reference. (UNCLASSIFIED)

9. Special Services: During President Johnson's Far East tour, 17 October to 2 November, FBIS bureaus are wirefiling to the U.S. mission at each of his stops significant comment and reportage from the USSR and Asian communist sources. During the same period the FBIS Bulletin is being tailored to serve as a briefing aid for U.S. missions in the countries visited.

In response to great consumer interest, FBIS arranged special coverage of the recent Warsaw Pact maneuvers. The German Bureau on 25 September monitored an Intervisio relay, via GDR television, of the peace rally and military parade in Ceske Budejovice marking the end of the maneuvers. The bureau also supplied to Headquarters, for OCR Graphics and two other consumers, copies of 140 still pictures of the event.

[redacted] videotapes of the parade and a 4 October documentary. The London, Austrian, and German bureaus filed all material on the maneuvers to DCSI USAREUR, Heidelberg, which was "highly pleased" with the service.

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Key West Bureau is supplying selected Havana newsreel material for possible use by the USIA Motion Picture and Television Service. The bureau also sent to OCR Graphics Havana television newsreel shots of the bombs reportedly dropped on the Nuevitas powerplant in Camaguey Province 29 September by a "pirate" aircraft.

At USIA's request, a four-week sample of Moscow Mandarin and a two-week sample of Moscow Amharic program summaries were provided by Tokyo and London bureaus respectively. The West Coast Bureau provided for an Agency component a recording of three songs frequently heard on Peking Radio on the topic of the Red Guards and Mao Tse-tung.

Upon an Agency component's request, the Brazilian Foreign Ministry, which is now monitoring selected Moscow, Peking, Havana, and Prague broadcasts to Latin America, was given a general description of the FBIS operation. Brazil's interest apparently stems from Moscow radio's "Peace and Progress" programs, tapes of which were supplied previously by the London Bureau for ultimate use by the Brazilian Government.

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At the request of the U.S. Embassy in Teheran, Mediterranean Bureau surveyed broadcasts by the clandestine Radio Peyk-e Iran for eight days in connection with the Shah of Iran's tour of three East European countries in September. An Agency consumer also received the material. (SECRET)

10. Lateral Services: With the addition of programs from Brazil, Haiti, and Guyana to its regular coverage, the Caribbean Bureau amended its lateral services to conform with the complete list issued by the Liaison and Requirements Staff in September. An additional consumer of reports on U.S. aircraft downed in Vietnam, 8th TFW at Ubon AFB in Thailand, is being serviced by the Okinawa Bureau. The German Bureau recently added the USAREUR News and Pictorial Service, Berlin, to its list of recipients of the Weekly Report on the East German Press. (CONFIDENTIAL)

11. Use of FBIS Materials: The importance of FBIS material to the White House was repeatedly stressed during a recent visit to the Situation Room by Editorial Division personnel. FBIS' role in the Cuban missile crisis was cited in this connection, and it was stated that FBIS more often than not is the first to report significant foreign news breaks, following up with in-depth coverage of a developing situation.

Saigon Bureau serviced an unusually large number of requests from local consumers prompted by such events as the Constituent Assembly elections, the convening of the Assembly, President De Gaulle's Phnom Penh visit, and Ambassador Goldberg's U.N. speech. Some 40 cables issued by the Embassy Political Section in past weeks were based on FBIS monitoring.

Twelve percent of the items appearing in the OCI Digest during September were based wholly or in part on FBIS-monitored material.

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The DD/I and the Director of Intelligence Support for the DD/I visited the London Bureau on 26 and 17 September respectively. The DIS also visited the German and Austrian Bureaus later in the month.

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The Chief, Wire Services Branch, and the Projects Editor visited the White House Situation Room on 7 October and were briefed by staff officers. (CONFIDENTIAL)

13. Field Inspection Trip: The Deputy Director, FBIS, visited the Caribbean, Panama, and Key West Bureaus 10-26 September. (FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

14. Training: The Chief, Editorial Division, attended the IBM Intelligence Executive Seminar on computer techniques 10-14 October at Poughkeepsie, N.Y. Assistant Executive Officer [ ] is attending the Mid-Career Executive Development Course. Seven FBIS officers have participated in the course to date. (FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

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15. Possible ADP Application: FBIS received a formal proposal, prepared by the Office of Computer Services, for alternative computer based systems for preparation of the Daily Report. The study concluded that a computer-based system is technically feasible, but could not be implemented for about two years for lack of the necessary hardware. The proposal is under review. (CONFIDENTIAL)

#### FIELD OPERATIONS AND ENGINEERING

16. Tokyo TV Monitoring: During September the Tokyo Bureau discontinued its temporary cruising of television film materials and selected five programs which will be watched daily for films of communist countries. Documentaries, propaganda films, travelogs, and other special features will continue to be covered as they appear. (CONFIDENTIAL)

17. Hong Kong Communications: Wirefiling of Chinese regional radio material produced by the BBC's Hong Kong unit is expected to begin in November, after a teletypist hired by the American Consulate reports for duty and receives training. The Hong Kong file will be sent to the Okinawa Bureau and FBIS Headquarters. (SECRET)

18. Broadcasting Developments: The clandestine "Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan," which was first heard on 10 September 1965, ceased broadcasting recently after one year of anti-Iraqi Government broadcasts. Baghdad radio and Cairo MENA announced on 4 October that Kurdish leader Mustafa al-Barzani advised the Iraqi Defense Minister that "the Kurdish secret broadcasting station has stopped transmitting."

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Additional half-hour Moscow broadcasts in Mandarin, previously announced but not heard, were recently observed between 0000 and 0100 GMT. Moscow radio's broadcasts in Mandarin now total 77 hours a week.

Pyongyang radio introduced two daily 30-minute programs in Indonesian at the end of September, displacing a one-hour broadcast in Mandarin.

Tirana radio recently began broadcasting in Czech and Polish for the first time. (FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

ADMINISTRATION

19. Credit Union Loan Insurance: Effective 1 September 1966 the Credit Union instituted a loan insurance coverage program at no expense to the borrower. All outstanding loans and new loans will be insured for the amount of the unpaid balance up to \$5,000. The Credit Union is the beneficiary of the loan insurance so that, in the event of the death of the borrower, the loan is automatically paid off up to the \$5,000 limit. (ADMINISTRATIVE-INTERNAL USE ONLY)

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## EDITORIAL

1. Translation and Editing: The attention of editors and monitors is directed to paragraph D, page I 11 of the Editorial Handbook, which states in part: In editing translated copy the field editor should make certain that the version to be wirefiled is couched in clear idiomatic English without ambiguities other than those inherent in the original. If ambiguities and unclear passages cannot be rendered satisfactorily in translation, an editor's note to this effect should be provided. In translations, English words are used to convey ideas contained in the original language. The translator, with the editor backstopping him when necessary, should use the appropriate idiomatic English to convey these ideas and should not be overly concerned at not being able to find a matching English word for each word in the vernacular. A good translation will sound as if it were originally written in English. In keeping with the initial premise that ideas rather than words are translated from one language to another, any steps necessary to insure the clarity of a translation are legitimate provided that no idea is added which is not inherent in the original.

## PERSONNEL

### 2. New Employees

#### Assignment

Typist, MOS, Field Operations Staff 50X1  
 Librarian, Reference Library, Editorial Division  
 Editor, USSR & EE Branch, Editorial Division  
 Typist, Publications Branch, Editorial Division  
 Editor, ME/AF/WE/LA Branch, Editorial Division  
 Teletypist, Wire Service Branch, Editorial Division  
 Typist, Publications Branch, Editorial Division

### 3. Reassignments

#### From

#### To

Chief, West Coast Bureau Chief Caribbean Bureau 50X1  
 Editor Okinawa Bureau Editor, Far East Branch, Editorial Division

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3. Reassignments (Cont'd)



From

To

Chief  
Executive Staff

Chief  
Mediterranean Bureau

Chief  
London Bureau

Chief  
Okinawa Bureau

Senior Editor  
African Bureau

Chief, Far East Branch,  
Editorial Division

Monitor  
East Coast Bureau

Monitor  
Caribbean Bureau

Editor  
Editorial Division

Editor  
Okinawa Bureau

Chief  
Okinawa Bureau

Chief  
London Bureau

Editor  
Editorial Division

Analyst, World Communism Branch,  
Radio Propaganda Division

50X1

4. Separation



From

Analyst, Radio Propaganda Division

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5. Temporary Duty in Headquarters



en route from West Coast Bureau to Caribbean Bureau

- orientation while on home leave from London Bureau

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✓ Acting Director

Foreign Broadcast Information Service